

name stuck, and by November 21, 1906, the County Court of Arkansas County approved a petition to incorporate the town of Gillett. The town was busy in those early years, establishing the Bank of Gillett, constructing the first sidewalks, building a modern two-story high school on Champion Avenue, and dedicating the first flagpole in honor of the men from Gillett serving in World War I. By the early 1920s, Gillett recorded its highest population ever of 1,175 citizens.

Gillett hit difficult times, however, in the late 1920s when the flood of 1927 and the Great Depression came. Residents lost their homes and farms, the local bank closed its doors, and businesses went bankrupt. It was not until the 1930s when jobs started to reappear as sawmills, stave mills, and handle factories relocated to our city.

Gillett sent many men into World War II in the 1940s. Some were captured as prisoners of war in the Pacific. Others lost their life fighting for their country. While the town prayed for its war heroes, community leaders continued working to improve the economic conditions in Gillett. In 1946, all the one-room schools in the area moved to Gillett District 66, and the town held its first Coon Supper to raise money for local school and youth activities. This event evolved over the years into one of Arkansas' most popular political events and now receives national and worldwide attention.

The town continued to grow during the 1950s and 1960s, with Gillett High School attaining North Central Accreditation, the construction of the Arkansas River Navigation Project, integration of the schools, and the establishment of the Planters and Merchants Bank of Gillett. Farmers and businesses continued to turn a profit, and by the 1970s area farmers reported all-time highs for commodities. Farms were paid off, new machinery purchased, and new homes constructed.

The town itself also underwent a number of improvements thanks to the Federal Revenue Sharing period. A new city hall was constructed, and street improvements were made. A library was built, water and sewer improvements received attention, and many beautification projects took place.

Despite the booming times of the 1960s and 1970s, the depressed farm economy of the 1980s and 1990s proved to be a challenging time for our citizens. Many businesses closed, and construction of new homes came to a halt. Population figures declined from the highs of the 1920s and 1960s, and the schools continued to lose enrollment. This declining enrollment posed a serious threat during the 1980s, when a consolidation proposal almost cost the town its schools.

It was during this time, in 1996, when the citizens of Gillett helped elect me to represent Arkansas's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. As a resident of Gillett, Arkansas, I am honored to

serve my friends in Congress and have spent the past decade working to restore prosperity to the region. We continue to fight for our farmers who struggle with high fuel and fertilizer costs, and we are working to diversify our energy supply so places like Gillett can benefit from new opportunities.

Gillett has always been a town of citizens who pull together during tough times to improve our schools, help our businesses grow, and attract new development to the region. On May 27, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate 100 years as a corporate community. We will hold a parade down Main Street, reflect on our history, and place a time capsule in front of city hall to preserve our story for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the town's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community and wish Gillett many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

HEALTH IT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Health Information Technology, one of the most important and immediate ways we can increase patient safety and help more Americans access quality health care.

Health Information Technology, like electronic medical records and e-prescribing, can help doctors save money, time and, most importantly, save lives. But as I speak to practicing physicians across America, I am hearing the same thing time and time again, Mr. Speaker: I would love to invest in this new technology, but the costs are simply prohibitive.

This is why I have introduced H.R. 4641, legislation to increase tax deductions for physicians who invest in Health Information Technology. If more physicians can afford Health IT, more Americans can benefit from these systems.

Mr. Speaker, a recent RAND study reveals that a widely adopted Health IT system could save the United States more than \$126 billion each and every year. We have a unique opportunity then to help doctors, patients and the American taxpayer in one fell swoop.

It is absolutely crucial that we encourage the adoption of HIT, Health Information Technology. Congress must act, and we must act now. H.R. 4641 is the right approach to lower the cost barriers to Health IT for our physicians.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where Dr. Jamie Thompson and his team of scientists were the first to derive and culture human embryonic stem cells in a lab.

Embryonic stem cells open up the possibility of dramatic new medical treatments, transplantation therapies and cures. But on August 9, 2001, the hope and promise of this research was greatly curtailed by this administration's severe restrictions on Federal research dollars.

Last year, I was proud to fight for the passage of H.R. 810, a bill that opens up Federal research dollars to stem cells derived from donated embryos. One year has gone by since the House passed that bill. It is time for the Senate to act. We can no longer tie the hands of our scientists. We need to unlock the promise that this research holds.

U.S. MOX PROGRAM

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the U.S. and Russia agreed to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium by turning it into a mixed oxide fuel for existing commercial nuclear reactors. Recently, the future of this program, which is vital to our national security, has been in doubt.

I acknowledge, sure, there have been delays, but I am confident that language previously agreed to by the House will allow the U.S. MOX program to move forward regardless of the pace of the Russian program. Moving forward in this unilateral fashion makes good sense.

I am proud that the Savannah River Site in my district has been selected for this important project. Eliminating the MOX program in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007 is wrong not only for my State but the Nation and the world.

The chairman has made his thoughts clear, but I respectfully disagree with his conclusions and will not be able to support any legislation that effectively turns South Carolina into a dumping ground. That is why I will not be able to support H.R. 5427 when it comes to a vote later today.

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VETERANS AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CARE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to provide greater funding for our Nation's veterans. More than 24 million veterans and their families have sacrificed for this country, yet the majority continues to underfund vital mental health and bereavement counseling.